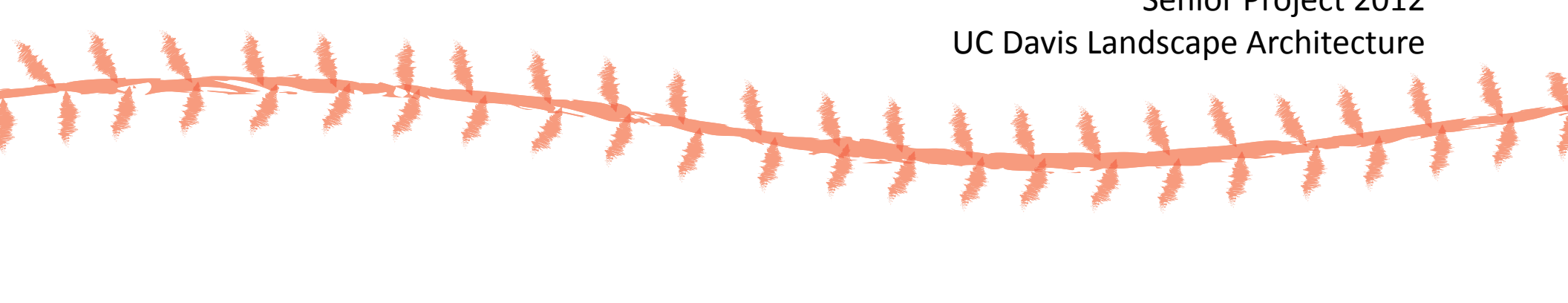




Four Corners: Sports-themed open space in West Sacramento near Raley Field

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Abstract

This Bridge Distinct 4 Corners senior project was chosen from the UC Davis Landscape Architecture Match Event that took place back in November of 2011. The event was accomplished by pairing Landscape Architecture (LDA) students with landscape industry professionals to seek creative ideas for potential projects. As a result of the event, Dave Shpak, (one of the professionals) and I were one of the fantastic matches. We both had an interest in working together to complete this Bridge Distinct 4 corners project.

The Bridge District 4 corners site is located in West Sacramento near Raley Field. Raley Field functions as a multi-use field, mostly dominated by baseball uses. These 4 corners always have heavy traffic during baseball season and users tend to park their car around the block. The 4 corner site is purposed for a passing by area for individuals to walk over to Raley Field. However, the 4 corners are not functioning well, it is now used as empty corners. Therefore, this project is to create a memorable experience when users are entering their way into Raley Field. A sports-theme, with the intergration of musical elements, will be incorporated onto this project site.

Table of Contents

1.	Abstract
2.	Table of Contents
3.	Table of Figures
4.	Acknowledgement
5.	Dedication
6.	Location Map
7.	4 Corners Map
8.	Site Inventory
9.	Case Study #1
10.	Case Study #2
11.	Overall theme and Goals
12-13.	Corner #1
14-15.	Corner #2
16-17.	Corner #3
18-19.	Corner #4
20.	Conclusion
21.	Committee Members
22-23.	Reference

Table of Figures

Figure 1.1	Location Map	6
Figure 1.2	Four Corners Map	7
Figure 1.3	Site Inventory Map	8
Figure 1.4	Paley Park	9
Figure 1.5	Paley Park	9
Figure 2.1	Downtwon Squares	10
Figure 2.2	Plan view	11
Figure 2.3	Corner #1 Site Photo (Before view)	12
Figure 2.4	Corner #1 Site Photo (After view)	13
Figure 2.5	Corner #2 Site Photo	14
Figure 3.1	Corner #2 Site Photo	14
Figure 3.2	Corner #2 Section View	15
Figure 3.3	Corner #3 Site Photo	16
Figure 3.4	Corner #3 Site Photo	16
Figure 3.5	Corner #3 Section View	17
Figure 4.1	Corner #4 Site Photo (Before view)	18
Figure 4.2	Corner #4 Site Photo	18
Figure 4.3	Corner #4 Site Photo (After view)	19

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I want to thank Heath Schenker for the senior project LDA matching event. Without the matching event, I would not be able to work with Dave Shpak.

Thanks to Dave Shpak for guiding me through in this whole senior project.



Dedication

I dedicate this project to

My dear mom, who has the warmest heart and biggest aspiration. Thank you for your love and support through everything I've done. You are my motivation to succeed in life.

My special someone, Danny Cheung, thank you for your love, caring, and support throughout my life. Thank you for always having my back and being there for me.

My family and friends, thank you for the patience, guidance, and support along the way.

Lastly, the City of West Sacramento, thank you for giving me a chance to work on this potential project.

Location Map



Figure 1.1

This Location map shows the four corners site (circled in red) with the surrounding areas in West Sacramento. Raley Field, Sacramento River, Tower Bridge, and Ziggurat are part of the main surrounding areas.

Early West Sacramento was first developed as agriculture development due to the richness of land. It then turned into an industrial area, known as Triangle industrial area. In order to create an environment ripe of growth in West Sacramento, this old triangle industrial area needed a wide variety of infrastructure improvement. There are lots of new investments going on in the community. The city of West Sacramento is slowly taking little steps to accomplish the goal of creating a sense of place that is both unique and complementary to existing landscape assets. This project will achieve those goals.

4 Corners Map



Figure 1.2

These four corners are the assigned spaces in this project. The number of square feet in each corner is the maximum space that can be used. I separated the four corners with Corner #1, Corner #2, Corner #3, and Corner #4. With those numbers, it is easier for people to understand which corner I am referring to in this project.

Site Inventory

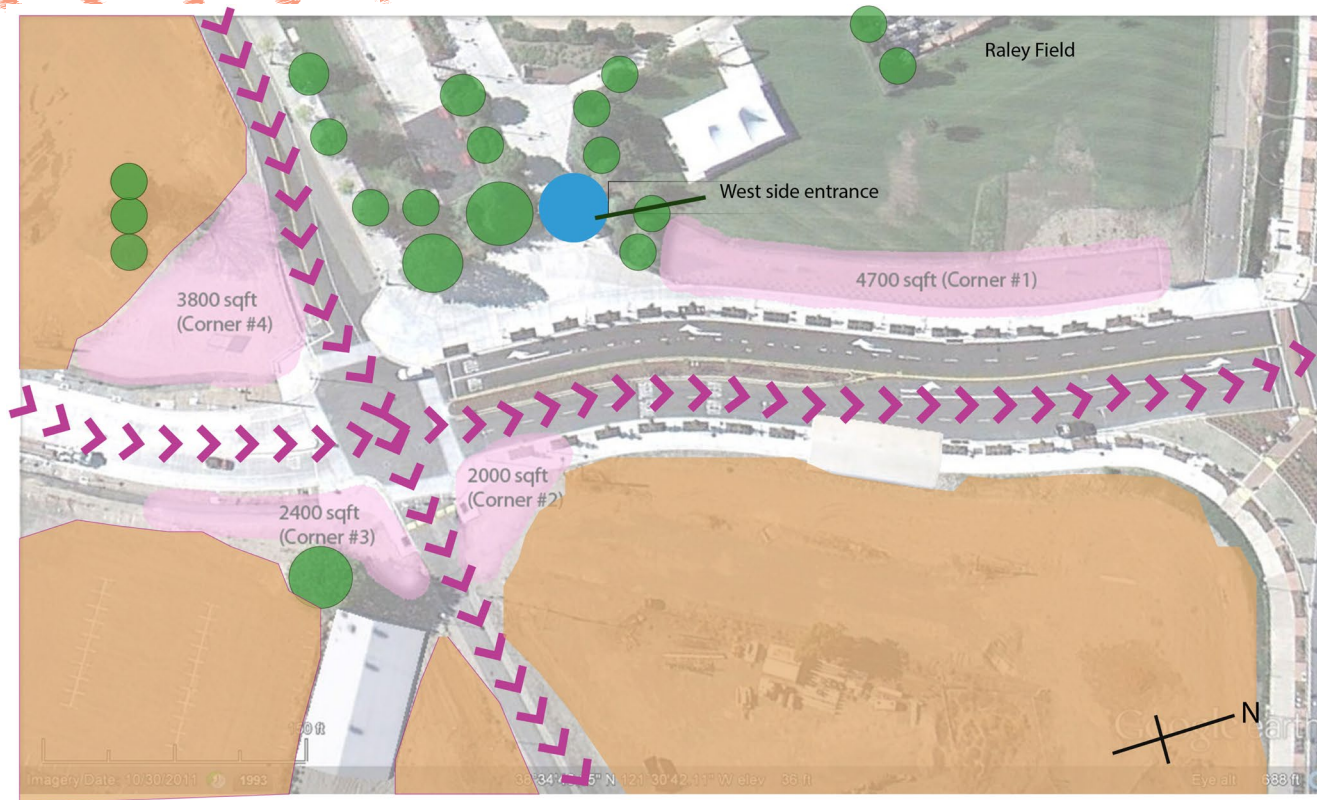


Figure 1.3

- Trees
- Traffic Flow (both sides)
- Empty land

Case Study #1

Due to small size of each corner on the site, pocket parks, which are a type of urban park, become a main research in this project. Pocket parks can be defined as urban open space on a small scale. One of the constraints of pocket parks is the limitation of space, but it can still meet a variety of needs.

Paley Park, located in Midtown Manhattan of New York, is one of the pocket park examples. The size of this park is 4,200 square feet. This pocket park is used for relaxation, a lunch area, sight-seeing, and a meeting spot. Some of the main features include a 20-foot waterfall on the back wall, moveable chairs, a concession stand and an ivy-covered wall. This pocket park is designed as an escape place from the busy life of Manhattan. It is a perfect place for office workers to relax. (Rosten, 1974)



Figure 1.4 Paley Park



Figure 1.5 Paley Park

Case Study #2

Downtown Squares, Savannah, GA, is another example of pocket parks. The size of Downtown Squares is 22 squares. One of the unique elements about this pocket park is that it brings out the image of the city itself. It is located at the heart of the neighborhoods. Pocket parks are often created by squeezing into leftover spaces. The central location of this pocket park is to be used as exploration by the residents and visitors. It encourages pedestrian to walk around the neighborhood rather than driving. (Blake)



Figure 2.1 Downtown Squares

Overall Theme and Goals

Goals

- Sports theme with musical elements
- Create new open pass by space
- Provide green spaces
- Incorporate water features
- Promote civic identity

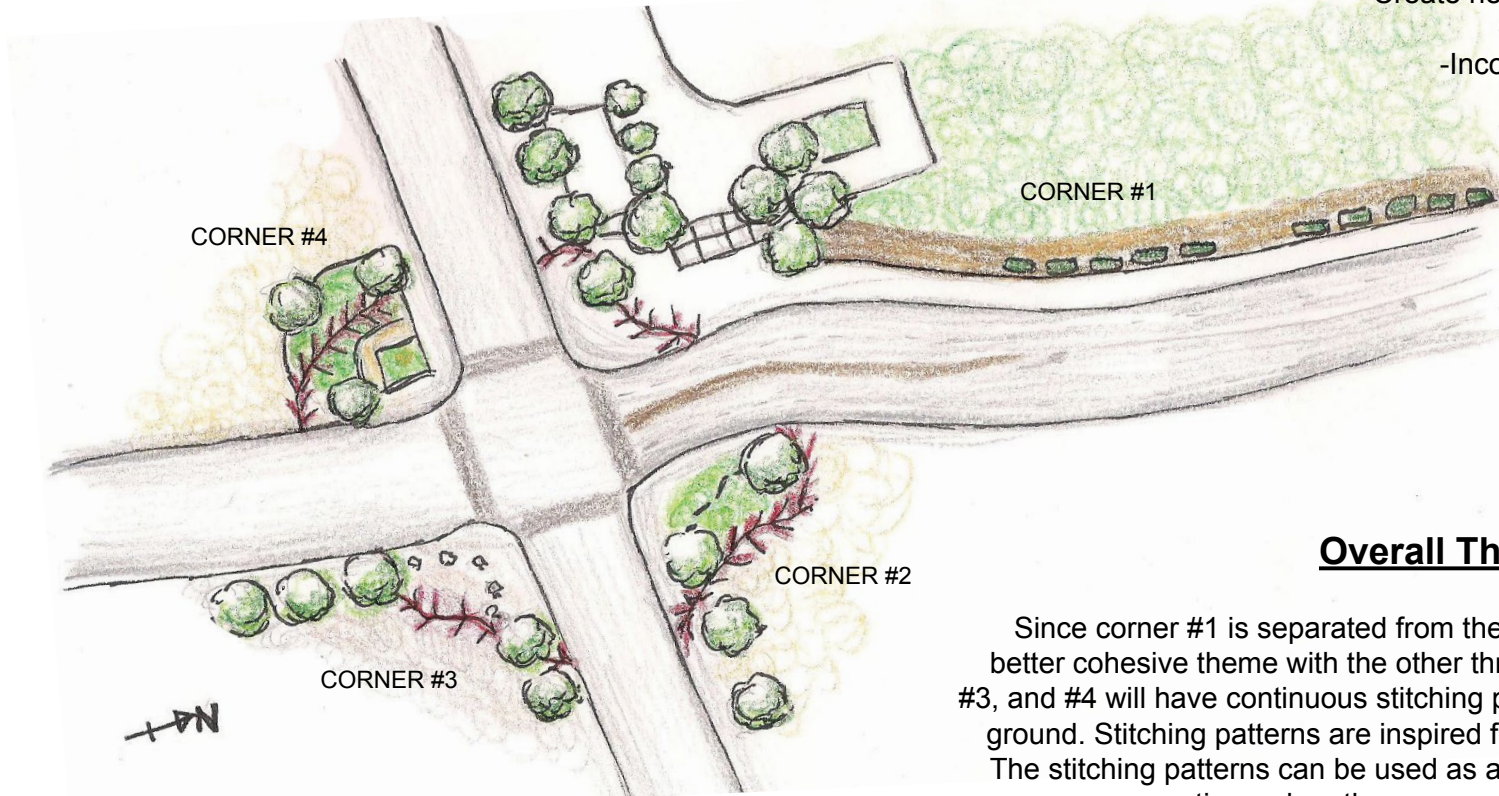


Figure 2.2 Plan View

Overall Theme Connection

Since corner #1 is separated from the other three corners. A better cohesive theme with the other three corners, corner #2, #3, and #4 will have continuous stitching patterns painted on the ground. Stitching patterns are inspired from the baseball itself. The stitching patterns can be used as a guide to user destinations when they are passing by these corners.

Corner #1

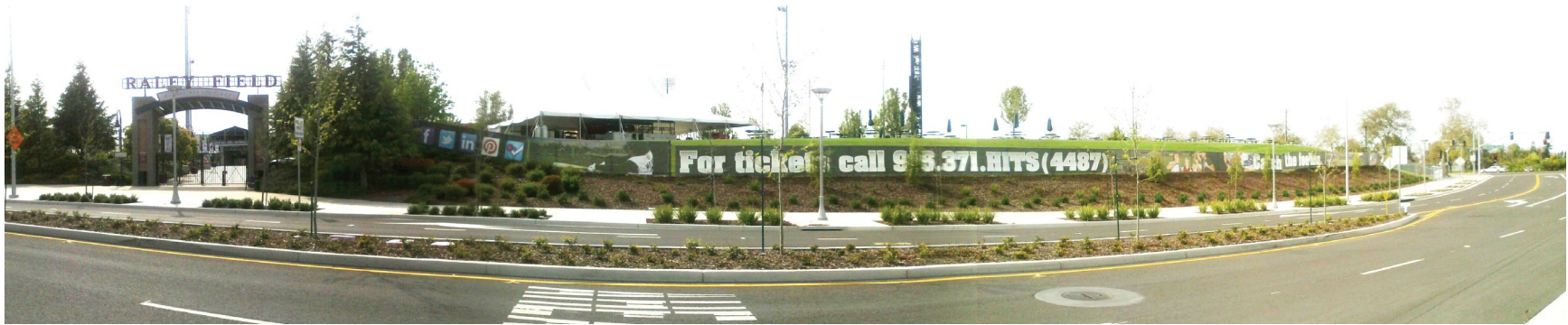


Figure 2.3 Site Photo (Before)



Site Analysis:

Corner #1 is 4700 square feet, with a sloped and linear shaped land strip. (See picture on the left) This area gives a first impression to drivers who are coming from Tower Bridge. It also provides the opportunity to become a gateway entrance to Raley Field.

Corner #1



Figure 2.4 After View

Design Concept:

On this slope, topiary will be planted along this whole linear area. The topiary will be cut into standing letters (RALEY FIELD) with boxwood shrubs. The letters will be very visible to users in a good amount of distance. The goal is to promote the idea of sustainable “green power”. Lighting will be added at the bottom of each letter so the topiary letters can be seen at night.

Corner #2



Site Analysis:

Corner #2 contains 2000 square feet. This corner provides an important view when users walk out from the west side entrance.



Figure 2.5 Site Photo



Figure 3.1 Site Photo

Corner #2

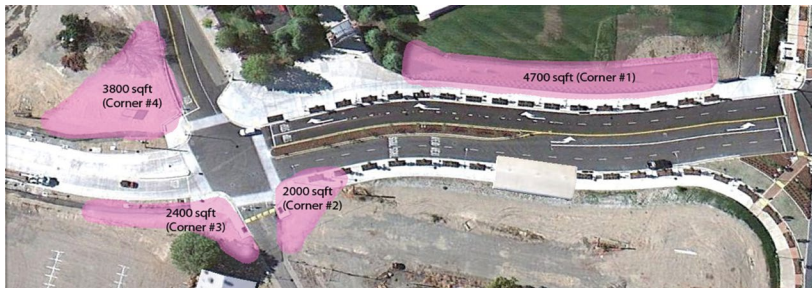


Figure 3.2 Section View

Design Concept:

Since Raley field is also used as a music related event place, this corner will have a musical theme with art elements such as musical notes. These sculptures will be contributed to the future amphitheater within Raley Field. The piece of public art itself will be 3 feet tall, so it can provide a transparent sight for both drivers and pedestrians in this intersection. Grass will be used as ground materials in this corner. There will also be limited amount of seating to avoid people from staying. The idea for this place is to be used as a meeting spot.

Corner #3



Site Analysis:

Corner #3 has 2400 square feet. Biggest feature in this area is that it is close to the Sacramento River. It has the opportunity of adding water features.



Figure 3.3 Site Photo



Figure 3.4 Site Photo

Corner #3

Design Concept:

Since this corner is close to the river, water features can be added. Water can be easily pumped from the river. Bats will be placed along this corner and water will shoot from the bottom to create a fountain effect. Pavers will be used as ground material. Lighting will be added on the floor so this water fountain will be visible at night. Trees will be added around to provide shading.

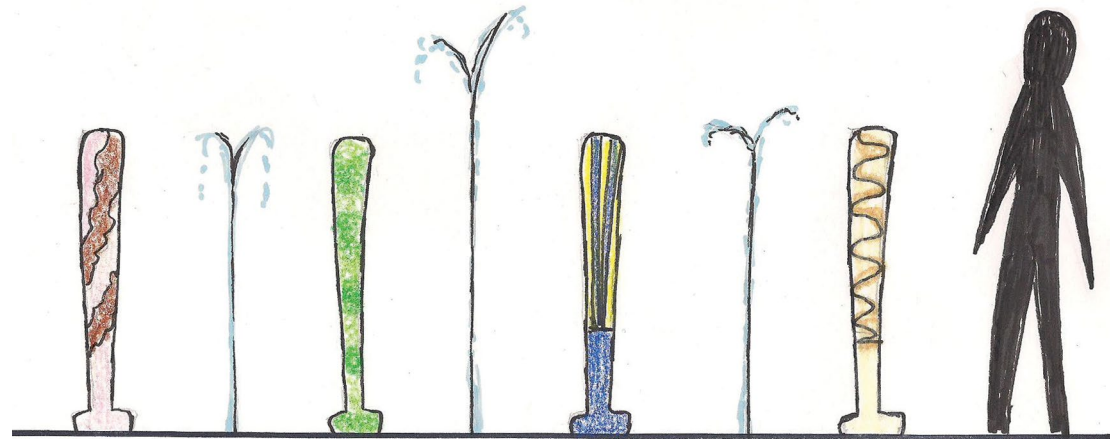


Figure 3.5 Section View

Corner #4



Figure 4.1 Site Photo (Before view)



Figure 4.2 Site Photo

Site Analysis:

Corner #4 contains 3800sq feet. It is now used as fence. Comparing to other corners, this corner gives an opportunity of space for users to interact.

Corner #4



Figure 4.3 After view

Design Concept:

The shape of the space can be decorated as a mini version baseball field on the floor. (As shown on the left, the before and after) Grass will be used as the outfield for the mini baseball field, the rest of the space can use turf block with pavers. Limited Seating will be added to avoid pedestrians from stopping traffic. Shading will be provided with trees.

Conclusion


Sports give spirit and it brings people who share the same passion together. With the final concept design of these four corner spaces, the surrounding space context has to be understood to understand the needs of the site. The final concept design is designed according to the surrounding space context. The context of Raley Field and the Sacramento River gave form to the goals which can enhance the project site.

In this project, I hope the four corner designs can provide a memorable passing by experience for the users. Raley Field will not only be a sports field, it will also add a sense of belonging to the community in the city of West Sacramento.

Senior Project Committee Members

A Senior Project presented to the
Landscape Architecture Department of
University of California, Davis
in partial fulfillment of the requirement
for the degree of
Bachelor of Science of Landscape Architecture

Accpeted and Approved by

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